Air Service

5223. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Maharashtra linked with air services; and

(b) the remaining districts which are proposed to be linked with air services during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) At present, Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad, Nagpur and Kolhapur are linked with air services.

(b) Indian Airlines has no plans to link any new station due to constraints of aircraft capacity. Private airlines are however free to operate to any station depending on commercial viability.

Screening of Netaji Bose Documentaries

5224. SHRIMATI KIRSHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have plans to telecast on Doordarshan two documentaries on Nataji, "Enemy of Empire" produced by BBC and telecast in Britain at prime time, and "Netaji and India's Freedom" produced by Netaji Research Bureau, Nataji Bhawan, Calcutta; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) In respect of the documentary titled "Netaji and India's Freedom" Doordarshan has received an offer and the same in under process. The producer of the other documentary has not yet made the offer to Doordarshan. Further action in this regard will be taken by Doordarshan as and when the offer is made.

Production of Mica

5225. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in the production of mica;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of mica?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Production of mica has shown a declining trend.

(b) and (c) Decline in the production of mica is due to decline in its demand in the international market. With a view to assess the future production capacity of the country and to reopen the closed mines, Geological Survey of India and Indian Bureau of Mines have taken up the detailed study in mica belts of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. Government of India have also set up the Working Group/Committees to investigate the problems of the mica industry. To promote the mica mining, Government have also offered a number of incentives to the exporters of mica such as withdrawal of duty on export of mica scrap and waste, and decanalisation of export of processed mica.

Closure of Mines Under HCL

5226. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have finally taken a decision to close down some of the mines under the Hindustan Copper Limited.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fate of the employees have been considered;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the loss suffered by the units of above company during the last two years; and

(f) the efforts made to revive those units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) During the year 1995-96 Hindustan Copper Limited earned a record profit of Rs. 75.84 crores. However, mainly due to crash in LME price of copper during the year 1996-97 coupled with reduction in customs duty on copper, the loss suffered by the Company during the year is estimated to be more than Rs. 100 crores. During the year 1995-96, the Ghatshila unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mine suffered a loss of Rs. 44.32 crores. The loss incurred by Ghatshila Unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines during the year 1996-97 is estimated to be in the region of around Rs. 50 crores.

(f) To improve the financial condition the Company has taken a number of measures which include reduction of inventory level, improvement in norms of consumption, recovery and productivity and reduction of administrative expenses. As a long term strategy to improve its competitiveness, the Company has drawn up a plan for expansion of its Khetri Smelter from its present capacity of 31,000 tpa to 1,00,000 tpa.

Hindustan Copper Unit/Ghatshilla Unit

5227. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the financial position, manpower and Production Plan of Hindustan Copper Unit as a whole and Ghatshila

Unit in particular;

(b) whether the Copper has been imported during the last four years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(d) whether the present economic policy and its excise and custom tariff region had any adverse effect on Hindustan Copper Units;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps Government is contemplating to improve the condition?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) During the year 1995-96 Hindustan Copper Limited earned a record profit of Rs. 75.84 crores. However, mainly due to crash in LME price of copper during the year 1996-97 coupled with reduction in customs duty on copper, the loss suffered by the Company during the year is estimated to be more than Rs. 100 crores. During the year 1995-96, the Ghatshila unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines suffered a loss of Rs. 44.32 crores. The loss incurred by Ghatshila unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines during the year 1996-97 is estimated to be in the region of Rs. 50 crores. The total number of employees on the roll of the Company as on 31.3.1997 was 19884 including 9786 employees at ICC, Ghatshilla.

In terms of the MOU for 1997-98 signed by the Company with the Ministry of Mines, HCL has fixed a target to produce 45,000 tonnes of refined copper (cathode) and 42,000 tonnes of wire rod during 1997-98. The break up of cathode is as follows:-

Indian Copper Complex	-	16,000 tonnes
Khetri Copper Complex	-	29,000 tonnes.

(b) and (c) The import of copper cathode made by Hindustan Copper Limited for conversion in its wire-rod plant at Taloja during the last four financial year is given below:-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)
1993-94	16476.730
1994-95	16480.037
1995-96	29886.618
1996-97	31563.928

(d) and (e) On account of decanalisation of copper, abolition of administered pricing system and reduction in customs duty, HCL is facing serious competition from imported copper which has seriously affected the profitability of Hindustan Copper Limited.

(f) To improve the financial condition the Company has taken a number of measures which include reduction of inventory level, improvement in norms of consumption, recovery and productivity and reduction of administrative expenses. As a long term strategy to improve its competitiveness, the Company has drawn up a plan for expansion of its Khetri Smelter from its present capacity of 31,000 tpa to 1,00,000 tpa.

[Translation]

Recommendation for Change the Name of ITDC

5228. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior working group of the Planning Commission has recommended to change the name of India Tourism Development Corporation as National Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The Report of the Working Group on Tourism for the Ninth Plan has made a recommendation to structure the India Tourism Development Corporation as a National Tourism Development Corporation which would have 50 percent joint venture interest in all the State Tourism Development Corporation. There is, however, no proposal with the Government at present to implement the recommendation.

[English]

Flying Clubs

5229. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Flying Clubs in India State-wise with the number of microlight aircraft in their possession;

(b) whether an application from Aerosports Club of Assam for getting clearance for flying of microlight aircrafts is pending in his Ministry;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in granting clearance and time by which it will be granted;

(d) whether application made by "Agni Aerosports" of Bangalore was cleared in the same year;

(e) whether it is also a fact that six microlight aircrafts were allotted to Aerosports Club of Assam by the Aeroclub of India; and

(f) if so, the present status of those aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) Aero Sports Club of Assam has applied to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (Dte. GCA) for issue of a 'Permit to Fly' Microlight aircraft. The Dte. GCA is awaiting clearances from security agencies.